

TO OBSERVE TRAWLING METHODS

Canada Sends Inspectors on Otter and Line Fishers.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries has named Amos Toole of St. John, N. B., to look into the matter of steam trawling on the Atlantic coast, says an Ottawa despatch. He will visit the Grand Bank on a steam trawler which leaves for Canso in a few days and make a report to Parliament in the autumn.

His orders are as follows: In order that this department may have all possible information relative to the alleged detriment caused to the fishing industry and fishing vessels by steam trawlers, it has been decided to appoint two people, one to accompany a steam trawler for the purpose of observing her methods of operating, and the second to accompany a "banker" for the purpose of carrying on similar observations as regards the work of the sailing fishing vessels in relation to the industry, and to observe the effect of steam trawlers operating in the vicinity of said sailing vessels on the sailing banker's operations.

It has been decided to appoint you as the representative of this department on board the sailing vessel, for the purpose of making observations and giving the department the necessary information.

In brief you are to observe and make a careful study of the methods adopted by any steam trawlers you may happen to see in the vicinity in which your vessel is fishing, paying particular attention to the effect the steam trawlers' operations have upon the success of your vessel's and other vessels' catches on the said banks; what precaution the steam trawlers take, if any, so as not to interfere with the operations of the ordinary bankers, such as by giving them the right of way, methods taken so as not to destroy the sailing vessel's fishing gear; distance at trawlers operated from your vessel, etc. You are also to report the average number of unmarketable fish that are caught by your vessel, and the disposal made of such, as well as the disposal of fish offal.

You should, if at all possible, go from vessel to vessel on the banks, if a steam trawler is operating in the vicinity, for the purpose of ascertaining what effect the operation of the steam trawler is having upon the operations of the other vessels.

The approximate distance sailed or drifted by your vessel each day, or whether she was at anchor, should be noted, and the method of fishing, that is to say, whether the fish were caught by ordinary hand liners from dories, or by hand trawls, should also be noted.

In short, besides making the necessary observations so as to be able to fill in at the end of each day the form sent you, you are to keep a diary of all the conditions obtaining, and the events transpiring, that might be useful to the department in dealing with the question of steam trawling.

You should immediately inform the department of the arrangements you have been able to make in the premises, and the vessel you will accompany and to what bank or banks.

This is in effect carrying out the resolution proposed in the Nova Scotia legislature three years ago by M. H. Nickerson, now inspector of life-saving stations. It was re-affirmed in the recent session in a resolution moved by J. W. Margeson, seconded by J. C. Tory, and finally unanimously agreed to.

If the result of the investigation now inaugurated shows the beam trawler is the evil that has been alleged, it is understood that joint action will be taken for its suppression.

Mr. Fralick, who was in Halifax last Tuesday evening, found it impossible to obtain a vessel at Lunenburg, and he will proceed to Canso, where it is expected an early opportunity will be found for him to go on a fishing vessel to the banks. Subsequently he will take a trip on a trawler, so that he will become au fait with both methods.

It is understood that a second investigator has been appointed from the eastern part of the province, making the two that Nova Scotia is sending.

July 30.

FISHES THAT SING.

Musical Members of Finny Tribe Produce Sweet Strains.

In no class of the animal kingdom are there so many curious examples as that which comprehends the finny tribes of sea, lake and river. Of these, there is none more remarkable than the so-called musical fish, from Tid Bits.

If there is one common characteristic of all marine animals more noteworthy than another it is their absolute silence or voicelessness. The only exception to this is the fish that sings. Its music is only heard at night, or in the evening after the sun has set, and particular places appear to be frequented by the fish, for on sailing away from them the sound becomes inaudible and on returning it is heard again. In long notes, low and clear and perfectly distinct, the sounds always seem to come up from the surface of the water. At one locality, Chilka lake, an inlet of the sea on the east coast of Ceylon, the musical fish gives forth sounds like the gentle thrills of a musical chord, or the faint vibrations of a wineglass when its rim is rubbed by a wet finger-tip—a multitude of tiny sounds, each clear and distinct in itself, the sweetest treble mingling with the lowest bass. The fish appears to abound off the Cingalese coast, and they have been met with out at sea in deep soundings, at least a hundred miles from Ceylon.

Their strange music has also been heard in the muddy creeks near Bombay and Salsette, and at Vizagapatam and along the Coromandel coast. It is audible on a calm night among the islands of the Mergul Archipelago, off the coast of Burma, and, too, in the fresh water of the Sarumoth river, in Borneo; and the notes have been com-

pared to the rising and falling of an Aeolian harp, or to music borne on the wind from a distant shore.

The natives along the coast of the Bay of Pailon, in Ecuador, where this

extraordinary phenomenon of the marine world is to be heard singing through the night, call it the "siren," or the "musico," the drowsy music, all of one pitch, filling the calm air seductively.

What manner of fish it is that produces the sounds has, as yet, not been definitely ascertained. American naturalists generally postulate that the musical fish of their coasts and of the West Indies, is especially of the Bacos islands, near Trinidad, where it abounds, is a large fish known to zoologists as the Pagonias chromis, growing to five feet in length, and swimming about in shoals. In the gullet of the fish are three movable plates, covered with large teeth, and it is supposed that it is the action of these that produces the sounds. As, of course, sound travels a great way under water, the slightest note is distinctly heard by any one on the surface.

The fishermen of the Bay of Pailon say that it is a white fish with bluish spots on the back, and about 10 inches long, which they catch on the spot while it is singing. But as regards their statement the great difficulty is that the mere hooking of such a fish near the surface is no proof that it is the fish which is a melodist, for the first might have been swimming near the surface, while the second, the real performer, is feeding quietly at the bottom. Anyhow, it has been conclusively ascertained that there is a fish which sings.

CAUGHT TRIP WITH SLICKERS.

Sch. Oriole Brings in Fine Fare, 250000 Pounds Salt Cod.

The biggest dory handling fare of the season is here this morning, sch. Oriole, Capt. Lewis Wharton having 250,000 pounds of salt cod as the result of a 14 weeks' trip.

Capt. Wharton fished in the shoal water of Grand Bank and got the bulk of his trip during the past few weeks, that the crew used during the entire trip was slickers not even as much as a cover being removed from the barrels containing her bait supply of salted clams.

But for the illness of one of the crew, who recovered, however, on the way in, Capt. Wharton would have hung to it longer, but was obliged to give up and head her for home. On the last day's fishing, the craft took 25 tubs of fish.

Sch. John Hays Hammond which towed to Boston yesterday and disposed of her halibut fare, brought down her shack trip here which went to the splitters. Another arrival since yesterday is sch. Claudia from Georges handling, with 30,000 pounds of salt cod.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Claudia, Georges handling, 30,000 lbs. salt cod.

Sch. John Hays Hammond, via Boston, 65,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Oriole, dory handling, 250,000 lbs. salt cod.

Italian boats, 35 bbls. whiting.

Sch. Benj. A. Smith, seining, 50 bbls. salt tinker mackerel.

Steamer Independence, seining, 125 bbls. bluebacks.

Steamer Marchant, seining, 60 bbls. bluebacks.

Steamer Pegasus, seining, 40 bbls. bluebacks.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Diana, seining.

Sch. Marguerite Haskins, seining.

Sch. Clintonia, seining.

Sch. Athlete, dory handling.

Sch. Marguerite, swordfishing.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$2.87 1-2; snappers, \$2.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$4.00 per cwt.; medium, \$3.50; snappers, \$2.50.

Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$3.25; mediums, \$2.87 1/2; snappers, \$2.00.

Dory handline codfish, large, \$3.50; medium, \$3.12 1/2; snappers, \$2.25.

Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.12 1/2; mediums, \$3.50.

Drift codfish, large, \$3.75; mediums, \$3.37 1/2.

Haddock, \$1.50.

Pollock, \$1.25.

Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25.

Hake, \$1.25.

Cape Shore salt mackerel, \$11 per bbl.; blinks, \$7.00 per bbl.

Fledged halibut, 8c per lb.

Fresh Fish.

Haddock, 70c per cwt.

Peak and Cape North cod, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.

Western cod, large, \$2.00; mediums, \$1.65; snappers, 75c.

All codfish not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.

Hake, 70c.

Cusk, large, \$1.30; medium, \$1.00; snappers, 50c.

Dressed pollock 80c, round 70c.

Bank halibut, 8 1/2 c per lb., for white; 6 1/2 c for gray, 4c for chicken.

Fresh mackerel, 30c for large, 20c for medium.

Fresh shad, \$3.50 per bbl., fresh; \$2.50 per bbl. to salt; \$3.00 per bbl., to freezer.

Fresh bluebacks, \$2.50 per bbl.

Fresh porgies, \$1.25 per bbl. for bait; 75c per bbl. for oil.

Fresh herring, \$1.50 per bbl. to freezer; \$2.50 per bbl. for bait.

U. S. CONSULAR AGENT NEEDED.

At Shelburne N. S. to Look After Our Stray Fishermen.

Four of the crew of sch. Rob Roy of this port were landed at Lockport, N. S., recently, and a week ago Sunday went out in their dories to meet their craft which was coming up the shore from Liverpool.

The men strayed from their craft in a fog and were picked up by the sch. Lizzie A., on Port Le Herbert Bank, a week ago last Friday.

Speaking of the rescue the Shelburne Gazette says:

"During the past few months many men have been brought to Lockport under similar circumstances and the lack of a United States consular agent here has been keenly felt upon such occasions."

Foreign Mackerel.

Only a moderate business is reported on foreign mackerel, says the Fishing Gazette. Norways and new spring Norways are both somewhat easier in tone, and Irish winter packed is going in favor of the buyers.

The reports of the Norwegian mackerel fisheries for the week to July 10 intimate a catch at Egersund of 76,000 fish, with sales at 2 1-2c each, mostly salted. At Stavanger the run was only 9000, and sales were made at 3c each, mostly salted; and at Christiansand there were 80,000 fish taken and sold at 2c each, mostly salted. About 90 vessels took salt and barrels for the mackerel hook fishery at Christiansand, and more boats were expected there. Of these there were nine boats with 32 bbls. of salt mackerel split for the American market, which brought 25 crowns per bbl.

The shipments of Irish mackerel from Liverpool for the week to July 13 were 2,281 bbls. Largefulls and fulls are very scarce and satisfactory prices will be obtainable here. Matties are not much sought after and comparatively low prices have to be accepted for this kind. Prices paid are:

Shetland largefulls, Mk. 45@47, halves 48@49 lb.; Shetland fulls, Mk. 34@37, halves 38@40 lb.; Shetland matfulls, Mk. 30@31, halves 32@34 lb.; Shetland matties, Mk. 26@27 lb.; E. C. and Orkney fulls, Mk. 34@36, in halves; E. C. and Orkney matfulls, Mk. 29@30, halves 31@33 lb.; E. C. and Orkney matties, Mk. 22@25, halves 26@28 lb.

Newfoundland Fish Notes.

Owing to the great quantity of ice in the Straits of Belle Isle this season none of the Wesleyville schooners have yet returned.

The fishing at Twillingate has been exceptionally good this season, some traps having as high as 600 quintals.

Bonavista Bay also reports fairly good fishing, particularly at Bonavista, Greenspond and Newtown.

Porto Rico Fish Market.

Our local market for codfish has followed its downward course, and we have to report sales of consignments, just made at San Juan and Ponce, at \$27, and \$27.50, say S. Ramirez & Co., of San Juan, under date of July 16. At Mayaguez \$28 per drum is quoted, net ex wharf, for a superior article. The decline in codfish has not yet affected pollock and haddock, which are readily placed at \$18 per drum, net ex wharf.

Portland Fish Notes.

Fish is unusually scarce in the Portland market, there having been practically nothing brought in last week except the very few secured by the boat fishermen. They are also scarce all along the coast, the steamers Pet, E. N. Brown and Higo, which were all in port yesterday, report not having seen a fish for several days. The little steamer Alice brought in 10 barrels of squid Friday last, which were sold for bait.

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T WHARF HAD 20 ARRIVALS.

And All Had Ground Fish
Except Two With
Tinker Mackerel.

T wharf had 20 arrivals this morning, groundfish and swordfish being in abundant quantity with prices good on all grades of fish.

Besides this there was a trip of mackerel, sch. Saladin, Capt. John Matheson having 8000 fresh tinkers, while yesterday afternoon, the Nellie Dixon landed six barrels of tinkers.

Haddock sold at \$2 to \$3.75, large cod, \$6.50 to \$7, market cod, \$4 to \$5, hake, \$2 to \$3, pollock, \$3 to \$4, halibut 12 cents a pound and swordfish 11 1-2 cents right through.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Str. Crest, 60,000 haddock, 7000 cod, Sch. Josie and Phoebe, 26,000 haddock, 1400 cod, 35,000 hake.

Sch. Emilia Enos, 18,000 haddock, 13,000 cod 15,000 hake, 4000 pollock, Sch. Eva Avina, 5000 pollock.

Sch. Ignatius Enos, 3000 cod, 1500 pollock.

Sch. Georgianna, 5500 cod, 1000 pollock.

Sch. Laura Enos, 1000 cod, 1200 pollock, 4 swordfish.

Sch. Annie and Jennie, 1700 cod, 8500 pollock.

Sch. Emily Sears, 5500 cod, 14,000 pollock, 2 swordfish.

Sch. Nettle Franklin, 20,000 haddock, 12,000 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Arbitrator, 25,000 haddock, 16,000 cod.

Sch. Matchless, 5000 haddock, 10,000 cod.

Sch. Rob Roy, 10,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 10,000 hake, 12 swordfish, 700 halibut.

Sch. Saladin, 8000 fresh tinker mackerel.

Sch. Mabel Leavitt, 27 swordfish.

Sch. Esther Gray, 87 swordfish.

Sch. Flavilla, 107 swordfish.

Sch. Eva and Mildred, 73 swordfish.

Sch. Natalie J. Nelson, 13,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 1500 halibut.

Sch. Nellie Dixon, 6 bbls, fresh tinker mackerel.

Haddock, \$2 to \$3.75 per cwt.; large cod, \$6.50 to \$7; market cod, \$4 to \$5; hake, \$2 to \$3; pollock, \$3 to \$4; halibut, 16 cents for white and 12 cents for gray; swordfish, 11 1-2 cents and 12 cents per pound.

FULTON FISH MARKET NOTES.

The smacks landed less than a quarter of a million pounds of fish at the market up to last Friday noon, says the Fishing Gazette. To be accurate there was 249,335 pounds of bluefish, sea bass and porgies. There were 34 trips in all. Last week 28 smacks landed 698,600 pounds of fish.

There were 25 trips of bluefish, against 21 last week. This week the weight of the bluefish was 120,775 pounds, against 297,800 pounds last week. There was one trip of small blues averaging two pounds each, 5000 fish; and 31,650 fish averaging in weight 3 1-2 pounds each. Bluefish were high in price, 14 to 15 cents being the quotation on Wednesday. During Saturday and Monday small bluefish sold as low as 8 cents. The average price for the week was a trifle over 12 cents per pound, as against 9 1-2 cents last week.

Groundfish was scarce and in some cases very high in price this week. This was the case concerning teak, which sold as high as a shilling a lb. In many cases purchasers would not pay the price and in order to fill orders it was necessary to bring steak cod out of the freezer. Steak cod during the first three days of the week sold at 8 1-2 to 9 cents per pound. Wednesday the price was 11 to 12 cents; Thursday, a shilling, and Friday, 10 cents.

There was steak cod in the market on one day only, Wednesday, when the price was 6 to 7 cents per pound.

Haddock brought 5 cents per pound during the entire week, with the exception of Wednesday when some sales were made as low as 2 1-2 cents per pound.

Hake sold as high as 8 cents a lb. on Thursday. The previous day the quotation was 5 to 6 cents. During the first half of the week the price was 4 cents. Friday sales were made at 3 to 5 cents.

Pollock sold at 7 cents or more every day with the exception of Friday. From Saturday to Wednesday the quotation was 7 to 8 cents. On Thursday the price jumped to 9 cents. On Friday the quotation was 5 to 6 cents.

There were few mackerel in the market. From Saturday to Tuesday sales were made at 40 cents. There were a few fish to be had on Thursday at 50 cents. Tinkers were scarce.

There was no halibut in the market on Friday. During the earlier part of the week, western whitefish sold at 8 to 10 cents per pound and eastern fish at 11 to 15 cents.

Harty Going Seining.

Capt Charles H. Harty has taken command of steamer R. J. Kellick in the mackerel seining fishery.

Salt Steamer Coming.

Steamer Hardanger sailed from Trapani for this port, with salt, July 24.

July 30. DIFFERENCE IN BEAM AND OTTER.

Former Trawl Is Cumbersome, Latter Can be
Dragged Deep.

The average landsman, and, indeed many fishermen, are confused in respect to the difference between beam and otter trawling says the Clark's Harbor, N. S., Coast Guard. The beam trawl is so called from the beam employed to keep the net open. The net is the shape of a long triangular bag, the upper side of the mouth being laced to a beam supported on iron "heads" or runners which rise it above the ground. The lower side is fastened to a ground rope which drags along the bottom.

The otter trawl is a net formed on exactly the same principal but in this case, the beam is dispensed with and the mouth of the net is kept open by means of two boards measuring about five or six feet in width and ten feet in length, attached to both ends of the mouth of the net, from fifty to one hundred feet apart, according to the size of the net.

The two ropes by which the steamer drags the net are fastened one to each board, and are so adjusted that as the vessel steams ahead, the pressure of the water on the inner face of the boards causes the board to divulge from one to another, and run along edgewise on the bottom. By this means the head rope to which the upper side of the mouth of the net is laced is stretched to its fullest extent and at the same time is raised above the bottom. The use of the otter board enables the cumbersome trawl beam to be dispensed with and allows the area of the mouth of the net to be twice as large, thus doubly increasing the catching power of the otter trawl over the beam trawl. The otter trawl has the further advantage that it can be operated in much greater depths. Otter trawls are now operated in depths of from 200 to 300 fathoms.

PROTEST BIG GUN FIRING.

Noank, Conn., fishermen have sent to the secretary of the navy a formal protest against the firing of big guns in target practice off Fisher's Island and in the Race during slack water. The fishermen contend that the heavy gun firing causes the lobsters to keep away from the fishing grounds, which means that most of those engaged in the business will probably be on the verge of bankruptcy if the catch grows smaller. This is a very serious affair, and something should be done immediately, they think, to remedy the evil, which happens each season and always when the lobsters are due. There is also much danger to the fishermen getting in the firing zone when they are prevented from hauling their gear while the firing is going on. Much loss of fishing gear is also caused by this annoyance, and there is no prospect of replacing their losses if the firing continues.

Portland Fish Notes.

These are the busiest of times for the porgy factories at Moxey Cove, New Harbor. The steamers of the Atlantic Fisheries Co. are rushing menhaden to the factories in large quantities and there they are being turned into oil and fertilizer. None of the fish are being caught off the Maine coast as yet, but it is only a question of days before they will begin to show up.

So great is the amount of work being done at the factory that barrels for the oil are being rushed to the spot from all directions. The schooner Storm King took 150 from Portland Sunday and the schooner Thomas Hicks will have 550 barrels for the same place when she sails today.

Capt. Doughty, skipper of the sloop Lucania, was Monday wishing he had been able to land more than 1500 lbs. of halibut off the Cape. Halibut have been very scarce during the past two weeks, so Capt. Doughty was able to get top notch prices for his fare. He was paid 14 cents a pound right through by C. A. Studley & Co. His fare of 2000 pounds of large cod was also snapped up. For the whole trip, the little schooner stocked better than \$300.

Cod, haddock and other ground fish still continue scarce these days and not enough are being received to supply the market.

July 31. SWORDFISHERMEN WERE HARD HIT.

Two Had Heavy Three Days Gale
on Brown's Bank.

The Portland swordfisherman, Katie L. Palmer and sch. W. H. Reed of this port, had one of the toughest trips of the season recently and for three days, they were battered by a heavy gale. During that time the little Palmer with Capt. Humphrey Sinnett and his crew of eight men were tossed at the mercy of the seas. Dories and water casks were swept overboard, waist boards were smashed and had the movable things on deck not been lashed down they, too, would have been carried over the side.

On Monday morning, July 22, a stiff gale sprang up from the southeast. It steadily increased in force until it approached the intensity of a hurricane. About 10 o'clock, a gigantic wave swept over the schooner. Four dories, three barrels of water, a barrel of gasoline, fog horn and sounding gear were all swept into the ocean. Waist boards were smashed and it seemed as if the little craft would capsize in the terrific sea.

She righted herself and Capt. Sinnett at once ordered his crew to make preparations for riding out the gale. The schooner was "drugged," that is, 60 fathoms of cable, three barrels of salt water were thrown out and the balloon jib was rigged as a drogue. By this means the schooner drogue. By this means the schooner was able to keep head on to the wind

and yet would drift safely without rolling and pitching too much.

The wind in the meantime had hauled into the northwest and the Palmer began to drag before it. For 60 hours the gale continued. All the while the schooner deck was awash and the men were forced to remain below. The water they had for drinking consisted of half a barrel full and they were nearly on short rations of it.

By Wednesday morning the storm had spent itself. The Palmer had drifted nearly a hundred miles and was now 150 miles southeast of Cape Sable. A day or two more was put in in fishing and then Capt. Sinnett laid his course for home. He arrived in Portland Sunday night. By that time the fresh water had about gone and the men were facing a serious problem.

Similar, though not so bad, was the experience of the schooner W. H. Reed of this port which also arrived at Portland on Monday. Capt. Henry Arsenault reported that he, too, had been fishing on Brown's bank and felt the same gale that hit the Palmer. No damage was done to the craft, however, though she rode out the storm under bare poles. Once during the trip the Portland schooner was sighted.

The Reed had a fare of 47 fish and the 88 swordfish brought in by the two vessels are the first to be landed in Portland this season as regular fare. There has been an occasional one brought in but no real trip. The fish were bought for 11 cents a pound.

THE SALT FISH MARKET QUIET.

The market for salt fish remains quiet but steady, both for home and export trade. Prices for codfish are steady in New York, and apparently unaffected as yet by the slump at Lunenburg.

About three-fourths of the Lunenburg spring catch of cod has been already disposed of at a little over \$4, says the "Maritime Merchant," and it is believed that the remainder of the fishing run will be sold around the same figure. It is understood that bad weather in Norway has delayed the making of the fish, so that the Lunenburg stocks will have the call for present and early future demands for new goods. It is hard to say what

will become of the considerable stocks of old fish on hand, but now that the new codfish is showing in the market the disposition of last season's goods will become more and more in urgent question. As soon as the announcement is made of the prices for the summer Norway catch, the position of the holders of old stocks will become clearer.

The opinion prevails in some quarters that the big Norwegian catch will tend to depress the values of all fish below the highest class; that No. 1s will keep their place at the head of the list on their merits, but that inferior grades or poorly-cured fish will suffer in competition with the goods from Norway. The moral, therefore, is: make your fish as fine as possible, and thereby command good prices.